

Journalism, and we both began our careers in elected office in the Oregon State Legislature. We both started in the Oregon House, we were both appointed to the Oregon Senate, and we both served in leadership there before joining Congress.

Congressman WALDEN was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1999, and his ascent in Congress, in both leadership positions in his party and on some of our most powerful committees, brought central, eastern, and southern Oregon to the table during the most pressing policy debates of the past two decades. Although Congressman WALDEN and I didn't agree on every vote, we worked together to find areas of common ground that helped Oregonians by advancing good policies. I am grateful for his most recent work to bring more resources to those with opioid addiction, and for our work together on wildfire relief. In this time of great division, I greatly admire Congressman WALDEN's lifelong commitment to serving with integrity, honesty, and humility. He puts pen to paper and does the hard work that's needed to serve his constituents and move our country forward. When I first joined the Oregon delegation, he welcomed me with kind words on the House floor and then invited me to the House dining room for lunch, a gesture that meant a lot to me as a new member of Congress. I will miss our chance to catch up on long flights to and from Oregon, and I'll certainly miss having a fellow Duck in the delegation.

I offer my congratulations to Congressman WALDEN, as he closes this chapter of his career dedicated to helping others, and I know he will continue serving his community and Oregonians in new ways in the years ahead. Best wishes to him and his family.

HONORING MARY MORIARTY

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Moriarty, who embodies what it means to be a public defender. For 30 years, Ms. Moriarty has dedicated herself to the Hennepin County Chief Public Defender's Office. Her tireless commitment to our community, providing quality representation to our most marginalized and vulnerable neighbors should not go unappreciated.

Ms. Moriarty was appointed Chief Public Defender in 2014. Her leadership resulted in significant reforms, providing ample and often training to new lawyers, bringing in social workers for misdemeanor cases, and requiring lawyers to have knowledge in forensic science and DNA analysis.

An evaluation from the National Center for State Courts Public Defender's Office under Ms. Moriarty's leadership validated that she runs one of the best public defender offices in the country, one that is as successful as a private firm. Dr. Brian Ostrom stated this: "let me say unequivocally that Ms. Moriarty is the most accomplished, passionate, and articulate public defender I have ever met."

In her tenure Ms. Moriarty has been a devoted champion in addressing the racial inequalities in the justice system: whether that be advocating for more awareness of implicit

bias for jurors, or requesting data that shows police disproportionately stop and charge African American's with obstruction of justice, compared to Caucasians. Ms. Moriarty has first-hand seen the disparities that impact our community through the legal system and has worked diligently to reform them.

To me, Ms. Moriarty represents what the standard should be for a public defender: someone who is committed to their clients and provides service to the highest of their ability, someone willing to call out the injustices and inequalities our neighbors endure, and working to reform them. Ms. Moriarty deserves the upmost admiration for continuing the good fight of improving our justice system, even in the face of considerable pushback.

I thank Chief Public Defender Mary Moriarty for her service to our community. It has been an honor to work alongside her to make our state, country and justice system a better, fairer place.

RECOGNIZING LIZ MCBRIDE

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our finest House servants, director of the Office of Employee Assistance, Liz McBride. Throughout her nearly thirty-year tenure with the office she has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of Members, their families, and the staff of the U.S. House—often meeting outside of normal business hours to ensure they received the support they needed. As Director of the office, Liz has gifted the House with a new vision—expanding confidential counseling and bringing a new focus to health with the establishment of the House Wellness Center. Throughout this pandemic, Liz and her office have played an essential role in helping Members and staff work through what has been for many a difficult year. Liz is leaving us with a bright vision for the future and a legacy worth emulating. Her retirement is a genuine loss for us and this institution, and I am grateful for her years of dedicated service to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF RANDY CLINTON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Randy Clinton, the President & CEO of the Community Enrichment Center, who will be retiring after 25 years of faithful leadership of the Tarrant County non-profit.

Mr. Clinton received his Bachelor of Science in Education from Abilene Christian University, where he demonstrated his leadership skills through his role as the ACU Band Drum Major. After graduation, he initially served as Director of Recruiting at Abilene Christian, before his career path took him to Granbury where he opened a restaurant, and then moved to the Dallas-Fort Worth area for a 13-year career in banking. His varied background

experience in the recruitment, business and finance fields provided him the skills that would prove necessary for the challenges he would eventually face with the Community Enrichment Center.

Established in 1988, Randy joined the organization already in existence, but brought his personal and business skills to effectively manage and expand the organization's original mission to serve Northeast Tarrant County's growing community needs. The area's expanding population brought an ever-increasing need for assistance from individuals and families facing homelessness or other forms of personal crisis. To address the challenge, Randy led the acquisition and sale of several properties through debt-free operation and management of 206 properties. This effort to assist struggling families also involved offering additional support services including the CEC's Food Pantry, GED completion classes and other programs to improve job opportunities and wages to move individuals out of poverty to self-sufficiency.

This mission expanded significantly with the merger of CEC with Open Arms Home, Inc., allowing an even greater ability for Randy and his team to aid families in transition. It also expanded the capacity of CEC to assist victims of domestic violence by providing them the time and space necessary to work through their challenges in a healthy and supportive environment. Funding these efforts without debt required not only efficient management skills, but also creative funding. CEC, through Randy's efforts, was successful in securing, and successfully managing, a number of federal grants including Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA), Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG), and HUD Homeless Housing grants. These grant funds, as well as other funding streams, supported the CEC's offerings to those in need, such as adult literacy programs and VITA Free Tax Preparation.

His service wasn't limited to his official duties at the CEC. Mr. Clinton served his fellow North Texans through participation in several area boards, including the Northeast Leadership Forum, Northeast Tarrant Chamber of Commerce, the Northeast Richland Lions Club, the Joint Advisory Council for JPS Hospital and the United Way Northeast Steering Committee. He also shared his personal time and leadership skills as Board Chairman of the Northeast Tarrant Chamber of Commerce, the Texas Homeless Network, Mid Cities Pacesetters Rotary, Tarrant County Continuum of Care for the Homeless, United Way Agency Partners and the Saginaw Area Chamber. He was also a founding member of Summer Santa and serves actively at The Hills Church of Christ as Elder and Class Leader.

Randy Clinton successfully bridged his personal faith and professional skills as a compassionate community steward, leading the CEC to offer practical resources, tools and encouragement to community members in need. Thanks to his committed engagement, families have found transitional resources to move from crisis to stability and break the cycles of poverty and family violence. Bringing hope to current, and future generations of North Texas residents, Randy has made an indelible mark through his service with Community Enrichment Center. On behalf of the 26th Congressional District, I wish him and his family the same success and fulfillment his efforts over

the past quarter decade have enabled for so many other families.

IMPORTANCE OF HOUSING

HON. KWANZA HALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of housing.

Housing is a basic human necessity.

Across our country, housing affordability is among the most difficult challenges facing cities today.

The metropolitan Atlanta region is no exception.

In 2017, Atlanta was the third fastest growing metropolitan region in the U.S.

If we want to fulfill our most basic promise on achieving the American Dream, then we must make affordable housing opportunities a reality.

A rule of personal bookkeeping is that you should spend no more than 30 percent of your income on housing.

But in many places, that cost is too high.

For many still, who cannot these rates, we must make public housing more affordable.

In Atlanta, we have a tremendous opportunity to expedite the redevelopment of vacant public housing sites including: Bowen Homes, Bankhead Court, Hollywood court, Harris Homes, Thomasville, and Jonesboro North and South.

All of these sites have the potential to not only incorporate affordable housing, but the addition of grocery stores in food desserts; healthcare facilities, improved access to public transportation; job and commercial centers, quality schools and parks and greenspace.

We have seen this model created in other development projects including the Bedford Pines transformation into City Lights, Eastlake, Centennial Place and the newly renovated Wheat Street Towers.

The activation of these vacant sites could create thousands of units of affordable housing—ensuring that one's zip code does not determine their economic mobility.

IN HONOR OF BILL WARD, JR.

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill Ward, Jr. of Blair County, Pennsylvania for his service to Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District on the 2020 U.S. Service Academy Nomination Committee.

Nominating exceptional candidates to attend our nation's service academies is one of my most important responsibilities in Congress. During this process, I rely on members of the Service Academy Nomination Committee, which is comprised of dedicated volunteers who have served our nation with distinction.

Bill is one of nine academy alumni who graciously volunteered their time to meet with and evaluate perspective nominees for the Class of 2025. As a graduate of the U.S. Naval

Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Bill knows firsthand the qualities and dedication that are critical for succeeding at the academies. He provided wise counsel and expertise throughout the nominating process, and I am grateful for his time and commitment.

Bill Ward, Jr. is an outstanding Pennsylvanian and American, as well as an excellent role model for future academy students. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, it is my honor to recognize Bill for his service to our community and our nation.

HONORING MY CHIEF OF STAFF BRIAN THOMAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my first and only Chief of Staff, Brian Thomas. I have had the high honor of serving in Congress since 2005, and Brian Thomas has been my right-hand man every step of the way on this amazing journey. Through the good days and the most difficult ones, Brian has been a constant professional and source of wise counsel. I consider myself very fortunate and blessed to have only had one Chief of Staff during my entire service in the House, and I could not have asked for a better man for the job than Brian Thomas. Brian will soon retire as the Dean of the Texas Republican Chiefs of Staff, an honor he has held for the last several years.

Brian's service to the people of his home state of Texas did not start in my office, as he worked for our former colleagues Sam Johnson and Jeb Hensarling, in addition to our current colleague MAC THORNBERRY. Hailing from Denver City, Texas and a graduate of McMurry University in Abilene, Brian never forgot his Texan roots, though he did do two tours outside of the Texas delegation for Charlie Norwood and Chuck Hagel. Brian celebrates a collective twenty-five years of Congressional service this month, a truly outstanding accomplishment that only a small number of Congressional staffers ever reach.

We could not do our jobs without the dedicated service of our staff who are always working behind the scenes. Brian's advice, experience, and especially his hard work, which often occurs at odd hours of the day and night, have all played a large role in helping me best represent the 24th Congressional District.

Brian will be greatly missed by so many upon his retirement as a Congressional staffer. His constant service is something not often found on the Hill, where frequent transitions are the norm. Throughout his career, Brian served as a mentor to staffers in not only my office, but also to those working for other members. No task was ever too big or too small for Brian, from answering the main line of the office telephone, to dealing with intense negotiations with leadership, Brian was always there for me and his colleagues. I hope that in the coming years, Brian's friends and colleagues will continue to ask for his sage advice—once a hill staffer, always a hill staffer.

I congratulate Brian on his remarkable twenty-five years of Congressional service and for leading my Washington, D.C. office for the

people of the 24th Congressional district the last sixteen years. I wish him, his wonderful wife Amy, and their three adorable children, Allie Ross, Jack, and John all the very best for the holiday season and a well-earned Congressional retirement for Brian.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JOE KRAUS AND MATT PROUTY WITH PROJECT VISION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joe Kraus and Matt Prouty for their service to Project VISION of Rutland, Vermont. Both Joe and Matt will soon be ending their impressive service to Project VISION after years of success helping Rutland build a better, stronger community.

Formed in 2013 at the height of Rutland's opioid crisis, Project VISION has celebrated two core values since its founding: collaboration for the greater good and focus on the positives that make Rutland a special community. The former Chief of Police for the City of Rutland, James Baker, spearheaded the creation of Project VISION with the enthusiastic support of Mayor Christopher Lours and the Board of Alderman. These leaders recognized that the community's challenges were not going to be fixed by making more arrests, so they sought community partners to build real and substantive change.

With passion and hard work, Joe Kraus and Matt Prouty have helped Project VISION lead a diverse coalition of over 300 social and health service agencies and organizations, who are united in their goal of making Rutland one of the healthiest, safest and happiest places in America. Project VISION's allies include the Rutland Regional Medical Center, the Rutland City Police Department, Rutland City Public Schools, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, NeighborWorks, and the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging.

In its early years, the coalition concentrated on treating addiction and substance abuse, reducing crime, and building great neighborhoods. Their success was impressive. A survey conducted in Rutland's Northwest neighborhood just three years after Project VISION was founded showed that people felt safer, had a more trusting relationship with law enforcement, and were proud of their neighborhood.

Thanks to the work of Joe and Matt, Project VISION continues to grow. It has expanded its work beyond opioid addiction to address larger health and welfare issues affecting Rutland. Most recently, the organization announced that it would focus on reforming systems that relate to social and racial justice.

I am proud to say that Rutland's future is bright. This is a community that has worked together to accomplish their common vision of a stronger Rutland. My thanks to Joe Kraus and Matt Prouty for stepping forward with energy and commitment to ensure the success of Project VISION. Their work has made a positive difference that will be felt by generations to come.